GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:469
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
E-COMMERCE
ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts are being made by the Government for expanding, stabilising and standardising E-Commerce in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have proposed to introduce any other technology to make E-Commerce more comfortable;

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(e) the cities identified to introduce E-check?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): While the Government acts primarily as a facilitator, various measures taken in this regard are given below:-

i. Information Technology Act, 2000 has been enacted. The Act provides a legal framework for recognition of electronic contracts, prevention of computer crimes, electronic filling/documents and legalizes digital signature. A Controller of Certifying Authorities to facilitate the implementation of the Act has already been appointed by the Government.

ii. Internet Service Providers` Policy (ISP) has been implementedISPs are allowed to set up International Gateways independentof VSNL. These ISPs are also allowed to hire international bandwidth on foreign saellite.

iii. Reserve Bank of India(RBI)has set up a Wide Area Satellite/terrestrial based network - called the Indian Financial Network (INFINET) -for secure, safe and efficient transfer of messages/funds transfers across a closed user group comrising of banks and other institutions in the financial sector.

The message formats for usage across the INFINET has also been finalised.

iv. Electronic Data Interchange Network is being set up for message exchange for international trade between Customs, Ports, Airports, Apparel Export Promotion Councils, Banks and Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

iv. To promote e-commerce, a set of R&D projects and test-bed applications has been supported by the Government.

(c) and (d): Technologies need to ensure that e-commerce transactions take place in a safe, secure manner with due security while the data is transmitted over the net. Technologies are, therefore, continuously evolving to address the changing needs of e-commerce.

(e): A pilot project has been initiated by Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), Hyderabadfor developing protocols for e-cheques to be issued by a single bank and used on the internet.